

*Making OpenCourseWare **rich, useable, reusable, and accessible**
at no cost first to academia and then to others in Vietnam.*

INTRODUCTION

Vietnam OpenCourseWare (VOCW) is a joint project, which began in 2005, involving the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF), and VASC Software and Media Company (VASC). International support is provided by the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology OpenCourseWare** (MIT OCW) project for model courseware, by Rice University **Connexions** for software tools, and by the **OpenCourseWare Consortium** for networking contacts.

The following visual (Figure 1) provides a glance of one webpage at the VOCW website (www.vocw.edu.vn) which is accessible both in English and in Vietnamese:

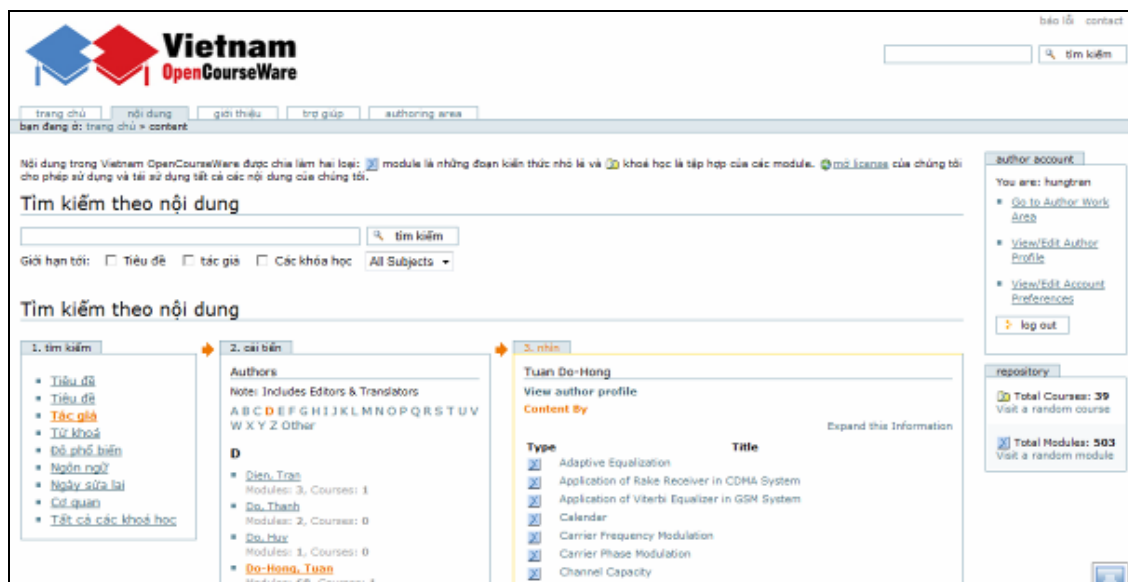


Figure 1: VOCW Homepage

GOALS

The goals of the VOCW project, which is sponsored by the Vietnam Education Foundation, are:

- To provide a **solid infrastructure and appropriate tools** as well as **technical support and training** for the development of OpenCourseWare/Open Educational Resources (OCW/OER) in Vietnam;
- **To develop high quality course content** based on available OCW/OER from leading universities in the world and initiate a VOCW content repository, which would include the **must-have reference resources available online and free of charge** for all Vietnamese users;
- To provide the OCW community with courses that have Vietnam-specific content that considers the **Vietnamese culture**;
- To provide new methods for the development of sample **course materials** in its start-up phase **in science and technology**;
- To establish a **Vietnamese OCW/OER users community** and encourage participants to contribute and share knowledge; and
- To encourage networking with the **international OCW/OER communities**.

IMPLEMENTATION

To fully support Vietnamese users, especially the faculty and students of VOCW's member universities, the VOCW project established a profound infrastructure, including a sophisticated **hardware system**, advanced **software tools**, and **legal guidance**.

Hardware

VOCW offers a very robust and flexible system that includes data centers and local servers, as represented in the map of Vietnam as seen in Figure 2 below, showing the VOCW Hardware Distribution. The VOCW Connection Model (Figure 3) demonstrates how the configuration of hardware, including the data center and local cache server, makes use of a member university's campus LAN to serve faculty members and students, thus, minimizing the Internet connection cost for the member university to use VOCW

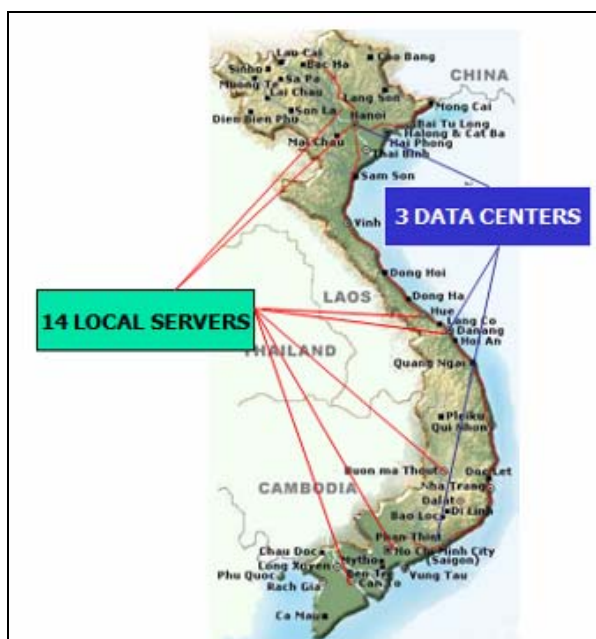


Figure 2: VOCW Hardware Distribution

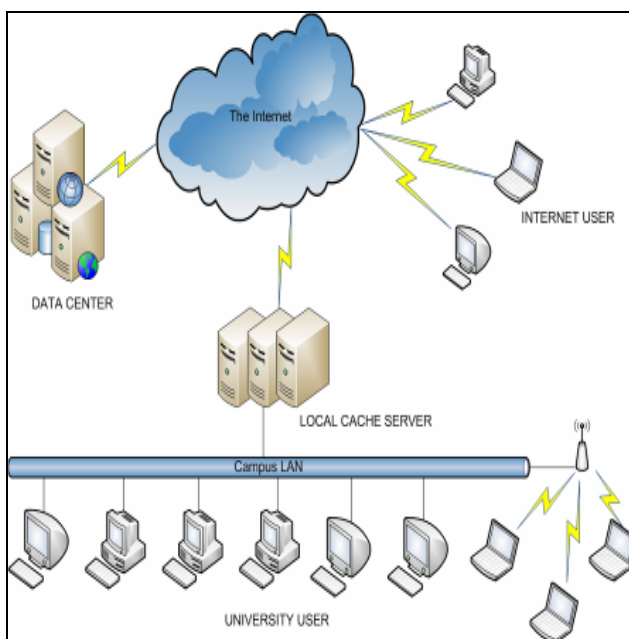


Figure 3: VOCW Connection Model

The following summarizes the number and location of data centers and local servers:

- 3 data centers in Hanoi, Danang, and Ho Chi Minh City
- 14 local cache servers at member universities:
 1. Can Tho University (<http://www.ctu.edu.vn>)
 2. College of Technology, Vietnam National University – Hanoi (<http://www.coltech.vnu.edu.vn/puf/>)
 3. Hanoi Agriculture University No.1 (<http://www.hau1.edu.vn>)
 4. Hanoi Education University (<http://www.dhsphn.edu.vn/>)
 5. Hanoi University of Natural Sciences (<http://www.hus.edu.vn>)
 6. Hanoi University of Technology (<http://www.hut.edu.vn>)
 7. Ho Chi Minh City Education University (<http://www.hcmupeda.edu.vn>)
 8. Ho Chi Minh City Medical University (<http://www.yds.edu.vn>)
 9. Ho Chi Minh City University of Natural Sciences (<http://www.hcmuns.edu.vn>)
 10. Hue University (<http://www.hueuni.edu.vn>)
 11. Tay Nguyen University (<http://www.taynguyenuni.edu.vn>)
 12. Thai Nguyen University (<http://www.tnu.edu.vn>)
 13. Tra Vinh University (<http://www.tvu.edu.vn>)
 14. The University of Da Nang (<http://www.ud.edu.vn>)

Connexions Software Tools

VOCW has adopted the Rice University Connexions software tools to implement the web portal at <http://www.vocw.edu.vn>. The tools were developed by Rice University in 1999 and have been known as “the evolution in publishing”. The development process of creating a course using the Connexions software is presented in the working model in Figure 4 below.

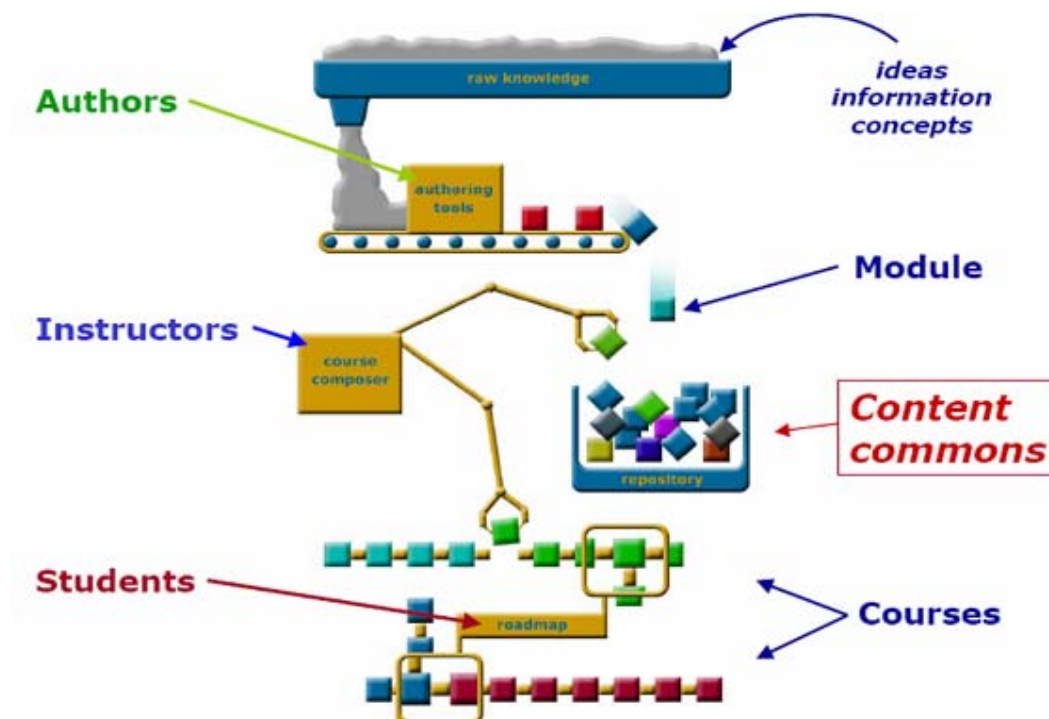


Figure 4: Connexions software tools working model

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Figure 5: Creative Commons license icon

VEF has been working with Creative Commons to have the license suite ported into Vietnamese for Vietnamese authors by January 2008.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the Vietnam OpenCourseWare Project, including opportunities to support the project, please contact:

Vietnam OpenCourseWare (VOCW)

VEF Hanoi Office

Hanoi Towers, Suite 502

49 Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi

Phone: 84-4-9363670

Fax: 84-4-9363672

Email: webmaster@vocw.edu.vn

For further information about VOCW, please visit: www.vocw.edu.vn